

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

## TOWN OF CANTON,

For the Year ending Feb. 28, 1874.



BOSTON:

WILLIAM BENSE, PRINTER, 89 WASHINGTON STREET,

1874.



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# REPORT.

## ORGANIZATION.

The Committee was organized as follows :

J. MASON EVERETT, *Chairman*, WM. H. LITTLE, *Secretary*.

WM. H. LITTLE, GEO. F. SUMNER, and ARTHUR C. KOLLOCK, *Committee on Text Books*.

### *Sub Committees:*

District No. 1, GEO. F. SUMNER.

“ “ 2, ISAAC HORTON.

“ “ 3, WM. H. LITTLE.

“ “ 4, JESSE FENNO.

“ “ 5, GEO. E. DOWNES.

“ “ 6, JOSEPH W. WATTLES.

“ “ 7, ARTHUR C. KOLLOCK.

High School, J. MASON EVERETT.

D. C. F. ELLIS, was re-appointed agent for the sale of School-Books,

## FINANCIAL.

The appropriation by the Town for teaching, fuel and care of school-rooms, was . . . \$10,000.00

Repairs, Incidentals and Supplies, . . . 1,000.00

Received from State ( School Fund,) . . . 259.29

“ “ County, ( Dog Licenses,) . . . 460.98

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Total, \$11,720.27

The amount paid for teaching is . \$8797.95

Fuel and care of school-rooms, . 1324.28

Repairs, Incidentals and Supplies, 2146.31 \$12,268.54

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Excess over appropriation, \$548.27

The excess of expenditures for Repairs, Incidentals and Supplies, over the appropriation therefor, is mostly due to extensive repairs which it was found necessary to make in Districts No. 2 and 3. In both of these Districts the school-houses have been put in thorough repair, a new floor of hard pine laid down and new furniture procured in the former, and the house in the latter has been painted and the roof extensively repaired. The outlay for drawing which was not included in the estimate for incidentals but in that for teaching, has also been charged to this account.

Taken as a whole the expenditures have exceeded the appropriations \$548.27, but if from this be deducted the bills paid on account of the previous year, about \$375.00, the excess would largely disappear.

#### ESTIMATES FOR 1874.

Teaching, Fuel and care of School Rooms, .	\$10.000.00
Repairs, Incidentals and Supplies, . . .	1.500.00

#### EVENING SCHOOLS.

Should the Evening Schools be continued as heretofore the sum of \$500.00 will be required for their support. But the Committee have grave doubts as to expediency of continuing them. Not that they have not accomplished excellent results so far as they have been able to reach those persons for whose benefit they are established, but because they have been able to reach so few. In other words the attendance has been so small during the past season as to make it a serious question whether the money has been profitably expended. They can legally be maintained only for persons over fifteen years of age, and there can be no doubt that there is a sufficient number of this class in our town needing instruction to fill the three schools to their utmost capacity. Could they be induced to attend there would be no question

as to the expediency of continuing the schools. The experience of the past year gives little hope of this.

Perhaps the best solution of the difficulty would be for the town to make the usual appropriation and the Committee to establish a school only on satisfactory evidence being given, that not less than twenty-five pupils, over fifteen years of age, have agreed to attend it regularly.

### ATTENDANCE.

And this leads your Committee to speak of the matter of attendance in our day schools. The average attendance in all the Schools has been  $76\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for the Spring term; 84 per cent. for the Fall term and 83 per cent. for the Winter term, and is quite an improvement on the previous year when the highest was  $78\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. This year the High School leads off with 91, 93 and 92 per cent. We give below the names of pupils specially deserving of honor for their constancy and would call upon parents to give their attention to this subject, and by letting nothing but absolute necessity cause their children to be absent, contribute as they can in no other way, to the efficiency of our schools. There is another aspect of this subject however, that has not received the attention that its importance demands. It is shown by the investigations of the Superintendent, that 225 children between the ages of 5 and 15, have received less than three months schooling, and that not less than 100 of these, *have not attended school at all*. This is a startling fact and should arouse, not merely the friends of education, but every one who has the future welfare of this community at heart, to seek and apply the remedy as far as possible. Only with the earnest assistance of such, in affecting public sentiment on this subject, and with the co-operation of our mill owners and employers, may your Committee reasonably hope to bring about a different state of things.



# ROLL OF HONOR.

The figures at the right of the names show the number of times tardy during the term or terms.

## *Names of those not absent during the year.*

Florence A Cobb,—8.	Alice L. Martin,	Annie E. Capper,
Lizzie Callery,—1.	Frank Lynch,—1.	Mabel E. Farrington,
Laura M. Shepard,	Percy M. Leavitt,	Helen G. Kinsley,—1.
	W. H. McKendry,—3.	

## *Names of those not absent during two terms.*

Ida J. Capen,	Ellen M. Cronon,—5	Harriet G. Bent,—3.
S. Elizabeth Brown,—4	Emma F. Pitcher,	Mary Crowley,
Mary Coughlin,	Lillian Harding,	Jennie Tirrell,—2.
George Howard,	Herbert Tueker,	Charles W. Seavey,—1.
Mary A. Galligan,—1.	Catherine E. Kelley,—1.	Nellie F. Saunders,
Annie A. Sullivan,—2.	John B. Tucker,	Katie Doody,
William Chadbourn,	William Creedon,	Benjamin Lloyd,
Jane E. Healy,	Alice S. Smith,	Minnie F. Smith,
Genevieve Farrington,	Mary G. Snow,	Mary E. Shaw,
Frank H. Farrell,	Sarah A. Horton,—1	Almira K. Chapman,—4.

## *Names of those not absent during one term.*

Rosa Chapman,	James Marshall,—1.	Amy Downes,
Helen Marshall,—1.	Millie E. Wentworth,	Mary Seavey,
Delia Williamson,—4.	Ada Mary Cave,—5.	Annie D. Williams,
A. Lincoln Graham,	I. Chester Horton,	William Mitchell,
Arthur B. Kollock,	George Gerity,	Carrie I. Kinsley,
Anginet Wiswall,	Ella Richards,	Julia A. Crane,
Freeman F. Baldwin,	Jones Eager,—3.	William Healy,—2.
Mary Gallivan,—5	Alice Flynn,	Sophia W. French,
Lydia Leonard,	John McGuire,	Adelaide Davis,
Catherine Healy,	Hannah Kanelly,—3.	Mary Wentworth,—6.
Daniel Crowley,—2.	George Katzenmeier,	Margaret Cohan,
Mary Callery,	Julia Kaliher,	Martha McGahan,—1.
Etta J. Martin,	Eliza J. Reilley,—1.	Ellen Leary,
Michael Doody,	Louisa Quill,	Cornelius Leary,—1.
Charles Katzenmeier,—1.	Owen Galligan,	William Sweeney,
Daniel Dineen,—6	Mary A. Galligan,	Mary E. Richards,
Elmer A. Billings,—1.	Henry D. Deane,—1.	William Dalton,
Thomas Gafney,—1.	Robert Lloyd,	William Capper,
Elizabeth Elynn,	Herbert A. Billings,—1.	Dennis T. Lyons,—2.
Lester A. Johnson,	Charles Hersome,—3.	John Herron,—4.
George F. Chapman,—1.	J. Edwin Chapman,	Mabel Starr,—1.
Thomas Tapper,	Ira C. Marden,—3.	Henry E. Johnson,—1.



Charles A. Drake,  
William R. Beechey,  
Henry Briggs,  
Margery S. Wattles,  
Eliza E. Perkins,  
Gertrude M. Cobb,  
Lucius Conant,  
John J. McCabe,  
Jennie F. Ellis,

Margaret C. Welch,  
John B. Corcoran,  
Mary A. Golden,—1.  
William Tapper,—1.  
Ella M. Harrington,—4.  
Elizabeth Shaw,  
George H. Jenkins,  
Grace A. Howard,—1.  
Sarah Ferry,  
Henry B. Hewitt.

Rose M. Corcoran,—1.  
Mary Kerr,—1.  
Cora M. Oliver,  
Ceclia G. Freeman,  
Daniel Chissell,  
William B. Kollock,—1.  
Charles H. Waters,—4.  
George E. Little,—1.  
Helen M. Sumner,—1.

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### HIGH SCHOOL.

The graduating exercises of the High School took place July 1, and Diplomas were granted to the following named graduates :

Eveleen Isabelle Bense,  
Fannie Adelia Billings,  
Ella Caroline Deane,  
Nellie Emma Kempley,  
Harriet Elizabeth Noyes,

Nathalia Bent,  
Lizzie Maria Cobb,  
Lillian Howard Horton,  
Eliza Rosita Noyes,  
Carrie Louisa Shattuck.

At the annual examination for admission to this school, it became apparent that the Committee must either lower the standard for admission or have but a very small class. In the face of considerable opposition they chose the latter alternative, admitted only two, and remanded the large number of unsuccessful applicants to the grammar schools. These schools have since that time been subjected to monthly written examinations by the Superintendent, and the classes are advanced only so far as they are thorough. The excellent results of this plan have already been made manifest, and if made the policy of the future, as it should be, and extended to all the schools in town, as we trust it may be at some future time, its effect upon the schools can hardly be overestimated. The time required for the faithful performance

of this duty, by the Superintendent, in addition to the other duties required of him, has been something more than three days in each week, for which the Committee contracted for his services, and is an indication that we shall not secure the best results in the supervision of our schools, until we are able to employ a Superintendent who shall give all his time to the duties of the office.

The report of the Superintendent of Schools, hereto annexed, is commended to your careful attention.

J. MASON EVERETT,	} <i>School Committee.</i>
WM. H. LITTLE,	
GEO. F. SUMNER,	
J. W. WATTLES,	
JESSE FENNO,	
ISAAC HORTON,	
GEO. E. DOWNES,	
ARTHUR C. KOLLOCK,	
THOMAS LONERGAN.	

## REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

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### *Gentlemen of the School Committee:*

I have the honor to submit the following report:—

There have been about the usual number of changes of teachers during the year. The following teachers have been employed during the entire year.

High School,	Mr. F. M. WILKINS.
Dist. No. 1. Grammar,	Mr. GEO. W. CAPEN.
“ “ “ Primary,	Miss CHARLOTTE TUCKER.
“ “ 3, Intermediate,	Miss ALICE H. LOWRY.
“ “ “ “	Miss LUCY A. HALL.
“ “ “ Primary,	Miss ELDORA A. DRAKE.
“ “ 4, Mixed,	Miss S. JENNIE DEANE.
“ “ 6, Grammar,	Mr. JEREMIAH E. EARLE.
“ “ “ Primary,	Miss E. FLORENCE FAUNCE.
“ “ 7, Intermediate,	Mrs. ABBY J. SNOW.
“ “ “ Primary,	Miss SARAH E. GOULD.

In District No. 2, Miss Nellie M. Nute resigned in May, and was succeeded by Miss Ellen McKendry. In District No. 3, Miss M. T. Delano resigned in March, and Mr. F. H. Ripley was chosen principal of the grammar school. In the first primary department, Miss Lavina F. Pitcher resigned in October, and was succeeded by Miss Helen C. Mills, who soon after resigned to take a place in a school in Sharon, and was

succeeded by Miss Annie A. Bent. In the other first primary school in the same district, Miss Mary E. Ryder resigned at the end of the Spring term, and Miss Eldora A. Drake took her place. In the second primary school, Miss Drake's place was filled by Miss Emma P. Bense. In the other second primary school, Miss Mariella F. Howes resigned in November, and Miss Carrie L. Shattuck succeeded her. In Dist. No. 5, Mrs. Emma F. Gould was succeeded in September by Miss Helen M. Wilkins, who resigned in November, and was succeeded by Miss Amanda M. Hadley, who has before taught the same school. In the High School, Miss Mary L. Prescott was obliged to ask leave of absence in October, on account of sickness in her family, and Miss Susan W. Felton has taken her place up to the present time. So much changing of teachers puts the schools back, for a time, even where a good teacher takes the place of a poorer one.

In speaking of the schools, I shall endeavor more to show wherein they need improvement, than in what they excel. It must be remembered too, that as my remarks must be general, they will sometimes be inapplicable to some particular schools, although true in the majority of cases.

In the first class in the grammar schools, a written examination has been given, once a month, beginning with September, in the studies of Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, United States History and Spelling. The same, or an equal examination, in the same studies, has also been given to all the scholars in the High School. By this means a much better estimate can be made of the qualifications of scholars applying for admission to the High School, than by a single examination at the close of the year. One of the most prominent features developed by these examinations is, that that in those classes, the spelling is very poor, with the exception of Districts No. 1 and 4. In Arithmetic and Grammar also, the standard is very low, and the High School ranks very little above the Grammar schools in this respect.



The questions in these examinations have been made as simple as it was possible to make them and calculated to furnish a test of the scholar's general knowledge of the subject, rather than to puzzle him with the quibbles of the text books and large operations with figures. The ground gone over was necessarily extensive, as the scholars had studied most of the subjects before, but were deficient in the rudiments of the studies. For instance ; in the examination for admission to the High School, last Summer, eleven out of twenty-eight applicants were unable to write in figures the number, twenty-seven millions and forty-three. In the High School the same deficiency in Arithmetic, Spelling and Grammar is noticeable. It hardly seems possible that much progress can be made in the higher mathematics, by those who are unable to multiply and divide common numbers, or in composition or literature, by those who do not know an adjective from a verb, and cannot spell words of common occurrence.

The causes for these defects are various. They arise partly from a fancied necessity for leaving school at an earlier age, growing out of the extravagance and increased cost of living caused by the war. But there are other causes, more easily reached by well directed effort.

The most important of these, is the threadbare, yet, to the teacher, ever-new one, of the irregular attendance of those who think they go to school regularly. There appears to be a considerable improvement in this respect, during the past year, but much more can be done if those interested will make an effort. The credit for what improvement has been made is mostly due to the teachers.

Another cause is the anxiety to do too much in a given time. Many parents seem to think that the grand end of education is, to graduate from the High School, and that the diploma makes good any lack of thoroughness on the road. With this idea in the mind, they keep up a constant pressure upon the teacher, who, perhaps, hearing very little from the other side of the question, yields in a greater or less

degree. This effect on the teacher is increased by the fact that the attendance of visitors at public examinations is proportioned directly to the grade of the school.

In the Primary Schools, I often find young children trying to spell large words when their time might be more profitably spent in learning smaller ones. In such cases, the failures often exceed the perfect recitations. In Colburn's Arithmetic the majority of classes are put forward a little too fast. They also acquire a mechanical way of reciting, so that if they hear one example in a section explained, they can readily do all the others, but let them turn back to it, when in the next section, and they can do nothing unless they are helped to start. Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, and Division must necessarily be mechanical, and can be learned only by repetition of "line upon line, precept upon precept"; but analysis requires the use of the reasoning faculties.

In the Grammar Schools the most common fault is the learning of the larger words in a lesson, whether Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography or History, without any attempt to grasp the meaning. Time spent in this kind of education is worse than thrown away. In the Grammar and Intermediate schools, the teachers must be ever on the watch for this habit, as a lesson thoroughly committed to memory often sounds so well, that it is difficult to believe that it is not understood. In these schools, too, it is necessary to repeat the tables of weights, distances and measures, as well as those previously mentioned, whenever it is found that they have been partially forgotten. Time spent in this, will be amply repaid by the time saved in future operations.

The number of scholars in the High School since last summer has been small. At the end of the school year last June, ten scholars graduated, and nine more have left the school during the year, while only two of those who applied for admission were found to be sufficiently advanced to enter.

The cause for this is probably, not so much that the schools below were poorer than before, but that the grade of requirements for admission had been practically lowered every year, thus causing the scholars to feel that it was intended to admit a certain number every year, whether qualified or not. The consequence of this is disastrous in the extreme to the pupils who enter, as all the more practical parts of Arithmetic are dropped when once in the High School, also English Grammar and American History, wholly, and Geography, with the exception of Map drawing. The course of studies for the High School is so extensive that those pupils who are imperfectly grounded in the common branches, are not able to comprehend them, and so drag along at the end of their classes, when by an additional year in the Grammar Schools they would be fitted to take the lead. I think this is one reason why so many drop out before completing the course.

Some alteration may be necessary in the list of studies for the school, but I do not yet feel sufficiently acquainted with the subject to recommend any change.

In regard to deportment, the school has made a very marked improvement within the year. The per cent. of attendance has also been rather higher than last year.

The subject of Drawing has received considerable attention of late. Walter Smith's series of Free Hand Drawing Books have been introduced and seem to be superior to the books previously used. A teacher has also been employed to give lessons to the teachers, once a week, commencing last October. To give time for this it has been necessary to dismiss the schools at about half past two, on those days; with the exception of the High School, where the scholars take the lessons with the teachers. This amounts to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the whole school time.

Since these lessons began, six teachers have left the schools, and six new ones have taken their places. It is, perhaps, too soon to tell what effect the teaching of drawing



will have on the schools. Of two persons, equal in other respects, one who has a knowledge of drawing will be much superior as a workman to one who has not, but still a knowledge of the art will hardly compensate for ignorance of reading or arithmetic. An hour, or an hour and a half a week may be profitably devoted to drawing, but in a town where a great many children leave school at the age of twelve, I hardly think that much more can be afforded for that branch.

The attendance at the Evening Schools has decreased, as compared with last year. There are many in town who ought to attend, and the town is undoubtedly willing to keep up the schools, provided there are a reasonable number of scholars, but if a greater proportion do not avail themselves of the opportunity, it will be necessary to abandon the attempt.

The whole number of scholars in town between the ages of 5 and 15 years, the first of May last, according to the assessors, was 949. The number between those ages, who attended school three months in the year, was 711. Several of the others attended schools out of town, but 225 of them must have received less than three months' schooling in the year. At least 100 of these have not been into a school-house during this time, and most of the rest have not been at school enough to hold their ground.

The Primary Schools in Districts No. 3, 6, and 7, will probably be so large, before the next Winter, as to need additional accommodations, although they may get through another year without a change.

I think that the prescribed list of text books for both Grammar and Primary schools is now very good, and any change would be as likely to be for the worse as for the better.

The closing examinations of the schools were highly satisfactory and very well attended by visitors, over 80 being present at the examination of the Grammar school in District No. 3. The Primary school examinations were also well

attended, although not so fully as their importance deserves. If the primary schools do not perform their work well, no amount of labor in the higher departments can make up for the deficiency.

The teachers have all worked hard for their schools, and one thing is particularly noticeable; wherever I have seen any special fault in a school and spoken to the teacher about it, a great improvement has been observable at my next visit. At the same time I have been cautious about giving advice, except where its need was undoubted, as too much advice is worse than none at all. The teachers need, and deserve, more sympathy and encouragement than they receive. The value of teachers' conventions arises from their bringing together those engaged in education, where they can feel that others take an interest in their profession. Very few new ideas are gained from them. Therefore if we wish for good schools, let us keep on getting the best teachers that can be procured, and then let teachers, parents, and committee work together.

Respectfully submitted,

FREDERIC ENDICOTT,

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

*Canton, Feb. 27, 1874.*

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At a meeting of the School Committee of Canton, held March 16, 1874, the foregoing reports were presented and adopted as the Annual Report of the School Committee.

*Attest,*      W. H. LITTLE, SECRETARY.

## STATISTICS OF SCHOOLS.

SUB COMMITTEES.		SCHOOL COMMITTEE.																																	
Districts.		Grade of Schools.		No. in School 1st. Term.		Average Attendance.		Percent. of Attendance.		No. in School 2d. Term.		Average Attendance.		Percent. of Attendance.		No. in School 3d. Term.		Average Attendance.		Percent. of Attendance.		Over 15 Years.		Under 5 Years.		Length of School in months.		Amount paid for teaching.		Amount paid for Fuel and care of Rooms.		Amount paid for repairs and incidentals		Amount paid for Drawing lessons, Apparatus, Printing and General Supplies.	
GEORGE F. SUNNER. ISAAC HORTON.	1	Prim.	38	33	87	35	31	88	41	35	85	7	3	10	\$800 00	\$188 87	\$114 29	}	\$218 55																
	2	Mixed.	37	25	71	30	26	72	36	26	76	2	3	10	336 00	53 45	392 75																		
	3	Prim.	35	28	79	33	27	82	38	29	79	1	3	10	390 00																				
WM. H. LITTLE.	4	Prim.	38	27	74	31	42	82	48	43	80	2	1	10	785 50			}	\$218 55																
	5	Mixed.	36	27	75	37	32	87	41	35	87	2	1	10	384 00																				
	6	Prim.	39	34	87	39	34	87	38	33	87	1	1	10	399 00																				
JESSE FENNO. GEO. E. DOWNES. JOS. W. WATILES.	7	Prim.	52	41	79	46	44	80	46	46	85	1	1	10	317 60	\$475 67	957 90	}	\$218 55																
	8	Mixed.	50	43	86	49	44	90	49	43	88	1	1	10	311 40																				
	9	Prim.	61	41	67	54	48	89	46	47	80	1	1	10	296 20																				
ARTHUR C. KOLLOCK. J. MASON EVERETT.	10	Prim.	59	46	78	53	45	85	54	46	74	2	2	10	400 00	41 50	8 89	}	\$218 55																
	11	Mixed.	24	18	75	24	17	71	23	19	73	2	2	10	358 00	74 25	94 99																		
	12	Prim.	42	33	79	33	21	64	48	38	89	3	4	10	400 00	148 47	103 03																		
J. MASON EVERETT.	13	Prim.	47	35	74	44	36	82	36	32	82	3	4	10	400 00	170 86	100 29	}	\$218 55																
	14	Mixed.	40	32	79	44	36	82	47	39	83	3	4	10	360 00																				
	15	Prim.	65	45	69	59	47	80	60	47	78	32	10	10	400 00	171 21	155 62																		
			789	602	765	733	609	84	735	613	83	47	13	1683	\$8 797 95	\$1 324 28	\$1 927 76		\$218 55																

Whole number of children May 1, 1873, between the ages of 5 and 15, 949.



